

How I Spent My Summer Vacation...



Summer job
outlook
for youth

Are you a teen who dreams of flipping burgers, working construction or being a lifeguard this summer? If so, you're in luck. With Utah's low unemployment rate and booming job growth, the summer job outlook for youth is hot hot hot! A strong economy means that fewer adults will be competing for these entry-level jobs, leaving teens and college-age adults with excellent summer job prospects in many industries.


In Utah, about 65 percent of teens age 16-24 are employed, which is higher than the national average. This is a combination of half of 16-19 year olds that work and three-fourths of 20-24 year olds that work. Utah's large family sizes are one reason why more youth work during the summer to earn extra money. The job outlook here in Utah should be even better than nationally, since Utah's unemployment rate currently registers a full point below the national average.

While there is a good chance that you will be able to find a job this summer, remember that there is still competition for these jobs. In Utah, about 150,000 people in this age group either work or are looking for work. To increase your chances of landing that ideal summer job, you will want to start exploring your options early. Opportunities will be best in industries that are growing or need seasonal workers during the summer months. These industries are healthcare, construction, accommodation and food service, and recreation. Identify your unique strengths, interests and career goals to determine which job in which industry best suits you.

If you enjoy working with people and are interested in a career in healthcare, for example, you could pursue a summer job as a home health aide. Do you want to know the average pay and the demand for the job you are considering? Take your "research" one step further by checking out DWS' comprehensive information on wages and job outlook by occupation (see the web link at the end of this article). Keep in mind that when you are starting out, you will probably be on the low end of the pay scale.

Once you've decided what type of work interests you, don't be afraid to approach employers to ask if they are hiring this summer. Remember to make

a good impression by being polite, well groomed, and enthusiastic. Unless you are applying to be a rock star, don't dress like one. Apathetic job seekers with messy hair, tattoos and piercings may look cool on MTV, but an extreme appearance and an "I don't care" attitude aren't such a hit with employers. Looking like a professional will go a long way towards convincing the employer that

you are mature, responsible and have what it takes to succeed. Persistence pays off, and may set you apart from the throng of job seekers. When my polite, well groomed brother was trying to land his summer dream job at the local burger shack many years ago, he visited the employer several times before he was finally offered a position. 

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Selected Summer Jobs and their Wages

Occupation	Utah Entry Wage
Landscaping and Groundskeeping Worker	\$7.20
Child Care Workers	\$6.00
Fast Food Cooks	\$6.00
Retail Salespersons	\$7.00
General Office Clerks	\$7.50
Cashiers	\$6.10

More? For the latest economic data and information on occupations, job outlook and wages: <http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi>. There will be lots of good opportunities this summer. Good luck finding that perfect job, and have fun.

